

A Home Going Celebration
offered in
Thanksgiving to Almighty God
for the Life & Ministry of
Aneatha Dames Todd
October 2, 1918 - June 28, 1998



Monday, July 6, 1998
5:00 p.m.
**St. James African Methodist
Episcopal Church**
588 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Newark, New Jersey 07102
The Rev. Dr. William D. Watley, Jr. Officiating
The Rev. Dr. Edward Verner, Presiding

Excerpts From My Last Will and Testament

by Mary McCleod Bethune

Sometimes as I sit communing in my study
I feel that death is not far off
I am aware that it will overtake me
before the greatest of my dreams ... is realized.

Yet, I face the reality without fear or regrets.
I am resigned to death as all humans must be
at the proper time.

Death neither alarms nor frightens
one who has had a long career of fruitful toil.

The knowledge that my work
has been helpful to many fills me with joy and great
satisfaction.

Sometimes I ask myself if I have any ... legacy to leave.

Truly, my worldly possessions are few.

Yet, my experiences have been rich.

From them I have distilled principles and
policies in which I believe firmly, for
they represent the meaning of my life's work.

They are the products of much sweat and sorrow.

Perhaps in them there is something of value.

So as my life draws to a close, I will pass them on ...
in the hope that an old woman's philosophy may
give them inspiration. Here then is my legacy.

I leave you Love

I leave you Hope

I leave you the Challenge of Developing Confidence In One Another

I leave you a Thirst For Education

I leave you a Respect for the Use of Power

I leave you Faith

I leave you Racial Dignity

I leave you a Desire to Live Harmoniously With Your Fellow Man

I leave you, Finally, A Responsibility to Our Young People

***Faith, Courage, Brotherhood, Dignity, Ambition,
Responsibility - these are needed today as never before.***

Order of Service

MUSICAL PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL Clergy and Family
Health Care Workers

OPENING HYMN Blessed Assurance

PRAYER OF COMFORT

THE SCRIPTURE

Old Testament - Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8; 14-15

New Testament - The Revelations 21: 1-7

SOLO Phyllis Snead
"I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME"

REMARKS

Family

Youth Representative

Health Services Representative

Community Advocate - Senator Wynona Lipman

RESOLUTIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

OBITUARY (Read Silently)

SOLO Phyllis Snead
"MY TRIBUTE"

EULOGY The Rev. Dr. William D. Watley

RECESSIONAL

Obituary

Aneatha Dames Todd was the second child of eight children born to the late Marian Miller Dames and The Rev. Richard Henry Dames, Sr. on October 2, 1918 in Tallahassee, Florida. Aneatha's birth certificate documented her birth as "still born" and efforts over the years to correct the record were repeatedly denied.

Mrs. Todd began developing her leadership abilities as one of the older siblings of seven girls and one boy and as she participated in the activities of The African Methodist Episcopal Church where her father served as pastor. Aneatha's ability to adapt to change was challenged at an early age, as she received instruction in elementary schools in five different cities.

Later, Aneatha earned a B.S. Degree from Florida A&M College, majoring in Home Economics and General Science and taught for several years in Chipley, Florida before moving to Washington D.C. to work for the government during World War II.

In June 1947, Aneatha Dames and James Benjamin Todd were united in holy matrimony in Washington, D.C. This 50 year union blessed each party with help and comfort in prosperity and adversity. A devoted and loyal wife, Aneatha cared for her chronically ill husband for 40 years.

The couple migrated to New Jersey and Mrs. Todd accepted the position of adjudicator in the Office of Dependent Benefits. Later, Aneatha served as dietician at Marlboro State Hospital in Monmouth County. After earning the M.A. Degree from New York University, Aneatha resumed her career as an educator at Newark's Wickliffe School where she taught students all elementary subjects using "special educational strategies" for 14 years. During her tenure at this job, Aneatha completed requirements for the doctorate degree.

Early retirement from the Newark Board of Education was necessary in 1970 after Aneatha was diagnosed as legally blind. As Aneatha's sight gradually diminished to the ability to see light and shadows she became more active as a community activists and advocate to protect, defend and enhance the general well-being of poor and disenfranchised people.

A true humanitarian Aneatha Todd never allowed her loss of sight to become a limitation. She continued even then to be in service to others. She worked as an Advisory Board Member for United Community Corporation, Newark Model Cities Program; and at the College of Medicine and Dentistry (now known as UMDNJ), the Board of Concerned Citizens, the Hospital Auxiliary and Community Mental Health Center.

Aneatha has served Newark as a key organizer in • the establishment of the Gladys Dickenson Health Center • The New Jersey Tuberculosis Council for eight years until it was dissolved after completing it's mission to set up guidelines for the treatment and follow-up care of tuberculosis patients throughout the state of New Jersey • the creation of the community-planning between Newark Model Cities and the State of New Jersey Health Systems Agency. • the formation of CHEN (Council of Higher Education in Newark) • the establishment at Newark Beth Israel Hospital of the first two-year nursing degree program, on an experimental basis • in the reestablishment of the gift shops at University Hospital and United Hospitals Center.

As a natural outgrowth of her interest in hospital and health issues, Mrs. Todd served 12 years on the Board of Trustees of United Hospitals. As a member of the research committee at the Newark Campus of UMDNJ, Mrs. Todd was required to review and comment on proposed experiments and protocols at the UMD (formerly College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey) related to hepatitis and tuberculosis. Experiments were denied as a direct result of community doctors, Mrs. Todd and other grass-roots community lay persons serving as astute watch-dogs.

Obituary

Mrs. Todd, along with interested community people, was co-founder and principal mover of P.A.T.C.H. (a community people's newspaper) which exposed the inequities perpetuated upon the citizens of Newark. Particular focus was in the mal-treatment and mal-health care rendered employees and patients at CMDNJ and the schools of CMDNJ-Newark. The publication was particularly watchful of violations of The Newark Agreements.

Aneatha worked 6-7 days a week in the gift shop at United Hospital Center. Mentoring African-Americans males in becoming financially independent and teaching verbal communication skills was her second most time consuming activity during that period. After the closing of the Gift Shop at the United Hospital Center, and until she became ill, Ms. Todd worked as a program aide and consultant to the blind at the Catholic Communities Services Senior Day and Visually-Impaired Program in Newark. The Roseville Coalition, National Council of Negro Women, NAACP, International Black Women Congress (IBWC) were organizations whose missions were dear to Ms. Todd.

Throughout her years of residence in Newark, Aneatha was an integral part of the lay ministry of St. James AME Church. Her responsibilities have included serving as a former cub-scout leader, youth choir director and charter member of the St. James A.M.E. Credit Union. In addition to playing the piano for the early service, Ms. Todd was a hit in the fashion show sponsored by the Precious Gems (the St. James Senior Citizens Group) for several years. Aneatha felt very honored to be recognized for dedicated Christian service to the work of the N.J. Conference Laymen's Organization of the A.M.E. Church. Over the years Ms. Aneatha Todd was recognized for her service and leadership by several community groups. In addition to two testimonial Dinners, Mrs. Todd received the following awards ♥ The Consumer Activists in July 1978 - for helping the sick and underprivileged award presented by The Division of Family and Community Services ♥ Resolution for outstanding and meritorious services to the citizens of Newark by the Municipal Council ♥ December 1979 Award presented by the Citizens Advisory Board for Conscientious service for a nine year period to CMDNJ - Community Mental Health Center ♥ December 1986 from West Ward Cultural Center & Newark Board of Education, "Willie Brown Memorial Award" for caring about the children of Newark ♥ March 1987, award presented by United Hospital Medical Center ♥ September 1993, the Oni Award from the International Black Women's Congress for commitment to uplifting the lives of people of African descent.

On Sunday, June 28, 1998, God called his servant, Aneatha home to rest. She leaves to celebrate her life a brother, Richard Dames, Jr. of Bergenfield, New Jersey and three sisters: Zelda Robinson of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Teresa Wheeler of Newark, New Jersey and Verdella Adams of State Park, Maryland and a host of nieces and nephews; and a large extended family of friends.

Ms. Aneatha Todd let God's light shine through her by using all the talents and the gift of INNER VISION with which she was blessed. Aneatha was a role model in faith, courage, self-determination, commitment and service. We cherish the memories of her sense of humor and joyful living as she worked.

Aneatha Todd, teacher, counselor, mentor, community volunteer, organizer and activist; pianist, business entrepreneur, home economist, devoted wife and God Mother to many **YOUR LIGHT WILL BURN ETERNALLY WITHIN OUR HEARTS.**



*Caring is the art of sharing.
Sharing is the art of living.
Living is the art of loving.
Loving is the art of caring.*

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS*

Lamar Merritt
Bilal Dames Nadim
Woodrow Robinson
James Wheeler, Jr.
Jonathan Wheeler
Richard Wheeler
James Wheeler-Weaver
Roy Wheeler-Weaver
William Wheeler-Weaver

* Active pall bearers are nephews and
grand-nephews of the deceased.

Acknowledgment:

*Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
or sat quietly in a chair
Perhaps you sent a funeral spray,
if so, we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words,
as only a friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all
just thought of us that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts,
we thank you for whatever the part
The family of Aneatha Dames Todd*

Arrangements by:
James E. Churchman Jr. Funeral Home
345 - 13th Avenue
Newark, New Jersey 07103
973-242-8454